Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction comprising a plurality of items being purchased together, as a function of one or more values; and

storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the ~~one or more~~ items, such that correlator values stored in RFID tags affixed to a group of items can subsequently be compared to determine whether the items in the group were all purchased in one transaction ~~presented for purchase in the current transaction.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions, such that the subsequent comparison can consult the database to determine whether any of the items in the group were purchased in any of the previous transactions.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

~~searching~~ locating, in an RFID tag affixed to each [[or]] of a plurality of ~~one or more~~ items possessed by a shopper, [[for]] a correlator value previously written therein as a unique, transaction-specific value; and

concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were potentially not paid for if the located correlator value for the selected items is not identical to the located ~~do not~~

have an identical correlator value [[to]] for the other possessed items.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step further comprising comprises the steps of:

determining whether each of the selected items was paid for in a previous transaction by searching a database of previous transactions wherein correlator values of the previous transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of [[the]] that selected item items, prior to the conclusion; and

concluding that any of the selected [[items]] item was paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located in the determining step of searching the database.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

wherein the previously-written

initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current transaction, was created, for a particular transaction comprising a plurality of items purchased together, using a function computed over one or more values, and was written[[; and]]

previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the one or more items presented for purchase in the current particular transaction, such that the items are thereby associated with one another, prior to operation of the searching locating step.

Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the

shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the ~~searching~~ locating and concluding steps do not apply to the remembered items.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction comprising a plurality of items being purchased together, as a function of one or more values; and

means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the ~~one or more~~ items, such that correlator values stored in RFID tags affixed to a group of items can subsequently be compared to determine whether the items in the group were all purchased in one transaction ~~presented for purchase in the current transaction~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 8, further comprising means for storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions, such that the subsequent comparison can consult the database to determine whether any of the items in the group were purchased in any of the previous transactions.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

means for ~~searching~~ locating, in an RFID tag affixed to each [[or]] of a plurality of ~~one or more~~ items possessed by a shopper, [[for]] a correlator value previously written therein as a unique, transaction-specific value; and

means for concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were potentially not paid for if the located correlator value for the selected items is not identical to the located ~~do not have an identical~~ correlator value [[to]] for the other possessed items.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 10, ~~wherein the means for concluding~~ further comprising ~~comprises~~:

means for determining whether each of the selected items was paid for in a previous transaction by searching a database of previous transactions wherein correlator values of the previous transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of [[the]] that selected item ~~items, prior to the conclusion~~; and

means for concluding that ~~any of~~ the selected [[items]] item was paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located by the means for determining ~~searching the database~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 10, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the previously-written

~~means for initially creating the~~ correlator value ~~as a unique correlator value for a current transaction;~~ was created, for a particular transaction comprising a plurality of items purchased

together, using a function computed over one or more values, and was written[[; and]]

~~means for previously storing the initially-created correlator value~~ in an RFID tag affixed to each of the ~~one or more~~ items ~~presented for purchase~~ in the ~~current~~ particular transaction, such that the items are thereby associated with one another, prior to operation of the means for ~~searching~~ locating.

Claim 13 (original): The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 10, further comprising means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the means for ~~searching~~ locating and means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction comprising a plurality of items being purchased together, as a function of one

or more values; and

computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the ~~one or more~~ items, such that correlator values stored in RFID tags affixed to a group of items can subsequently be compared to determine whether the items in the group were all purchased in one transaction ~~presented for purchase in the current transaction.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 15, further comprising computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions, such that the subsequent comparison can consult the database to determine whether any of the items in the group were purchased in any of the previous transactions.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer program product for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for ~~searching~~ locating, in an RFID tag affixed to each [[or]] of a plurality of ~~one or more~~ items possessed by a shopper, [[for]] a correlator value previously written therein as a unique, transaction-specific value; and

computer-readable program code means for concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were potentially not paid for if the located correlator value for the selected items is not identical to the located ~~do not have an identical~~ correlator value [[to]] for the other possessed items.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 17, ~~wherein the computer-readable program code means for concluding~~ further comprising ~~comprises~~:

computer-readable program code means for determining whether each of the selected items was paid for in a previous transaction by searching a database of previous transactions wherein correlator values of the previous transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of [[the]] that selected item ~~items, prior to the conclusion~~; and

computer-readable program code means for concluding that ~~any of~~ the selected [[items]] item was paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located by the computer-readable program code means for determining ~~searching the database~~.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 17, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein the previously-written

~~computer-readable program code means for initially creating the~~ correlator value ~~as a unique correlator value for a current transaction;~~ was created, for a particular transaction comprising a plurality of items purchased together, using a function computed over one or more values, and was written[[; and]]

~~computer-readable program code means for previously storing the initially-created correlator value~~ in an RFID tag affixed to each of the ~~one or more~~ items ~~presented for purchase~~ in the ~~current~~ particular transaction, such that the items are thereby associated with one another, prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for ~~searching~~ locating.

Claim 20 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer-readable program code means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising computer-readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for ~~searching~~ locating and computer-readable program code means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.